

### **REMARKS**

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated March 12, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 12, 2007. Applicants submit this response to place the application in condition for allowance. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 8-20 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1-7 have been cancelled.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,781,448) and further in view of Mullins et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,832,324).

Applicants have canceled claims 1-7 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-20 are allowed.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

If the Examiner believes any issues remain that prevent this application from going to issue, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact Gero McClellan, attorney of record, at (336) 643-3065, to discuss strategies for moving prosecution forward toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted, and  
**S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,**

/Gero G. McClellan, Reg. No. 44,227/

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Gero G. McClellan  
Registration No. 44,227  
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.  
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500  
Houston, TX 77056  
Telephone: (713) 623-4844  
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846  
Attorney for Applicants